

7/31/71

Dear Mary,

Glad to get the optimism in your 7/29. Hope you can get here, especially because that will mean Buck is better.

Check on the cassettes. It does not pay to buy anything when you have a good machine, but something you might want to recall if there is such a possibility in the future is that you can rent machines with special capabilities. For example, my old Concords, which are worth the overhauling I can't afford, are sound-activated and, with half-til tape on a 5" reel, with the reel wound full, will go 3 hrs per side, and when there is no voice, will stop until the talk resumes, thus extending the real time. They cost me \$100.00 each when I got them. They have more sensitive mikes and can be placed under a sofa and still get good, clear pickup.

If you make dubs, you'll do better to transcribe from the Subs if you make them on thicker cassettes, like 60 min., for the plastic is much more durable, less likely to stretch or tear. But do make the dubs first, as protection against damage to the thin (100 min) tapes.

From what Bud said when he told me he wanted me to go over it, it sounds promising. Bud rarely tells me anything, for his ego still eats and controls him, so I presume this is his evaluation of two things: the potential value and the possibility of my knowing what might be relevant.

If you do drive up, Buck might enjoy the Skyline Drive in the Shenandoah. But the old other roads used to be through pretty country, so I presume this is true of the new expressways, too.

You say "little Sony recorder". If you have the T-40, one of which was given to me as a gift - and its great - while we have done no transcribing with it, the friends who gave it to me tell me that they find the handswitch that is with the machine more convenient. Thus, they have give me their foot control, which they never use. You might want to try both. And, if you would like what is best for transcribing, I was given something I can't afford to get overhauled. It works, but not loud enough. I was given both master and slave units of a distabelt machine. It can be reversed by the single control, stops instantly, which the tapes do not, and dubbing on one of them would be much better for transcribing, much easier. If you can use it, I'll give it to you when you are here. I did offer it to Bud long ago. When you expect to transcribe interviews that are not clandestine, they are also better machines.

Bill is making steady, but slow, recovery. She had just finished reading your letter when her sister came. They are now visiting while I work.

Bud told me nothing about Gary Shaw, so that means nothing. Ditto for the "Almanack" (which you once said I had to have and you'd get it, I think). I have the affidavits, if you want to make a copy, and if you are not getting the States-Item, I have a set as they appeared in the papers I do not really need since I have the xeroxes of the originals. I have written Bailey offering to help. I have had no response to several memos to Lyon, so I've discontinued sending him notes. Bailey may think it presumptuous, but I am confident I can be of some use to him...Do hope you can get here while Buck can still swim. The water has been great. Until loose dogs started coming forth, which reduced the joy and relaxation, I had stretched these aching muscles and stiffening bones and joints to where I could walk briskly to the highest point on the paved road up the side of the mountain, then back. Then a quick dip, which is refreshing to body and mind, then back to work. I am working on something where I now have a mindblowing addition to what excited you when you were here. It may be what we have needed. With luck and help, it can and perhaps will be. Best to you all,